The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor concerning in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

WE PLEDGE—
1 BILLION DOLLARS
IN
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1629 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., MONDAY, JUNE 29, 1942 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 32, NO. 26

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

At the moment, the only really encouraging aspect of the war picture is the tremendous growth of American war production.

Brothers and sisters, we are proud to say that labor is largely responsible for that achievement. The men and women of organized labor have been on the job and the results are highly encouraging.

The story comes directly from President Roosevelt who at last has lifted the shade that has shielded war production with the utmost secrecy and has now revealed certain specific and interesting figures.

For a long time, some of our military leaders in an excess of caution have blocked publication of production figures in the fear that it might help the enemy. But the President now realizes that these figures are the worst possible news for the enemy and he has given the nation the facts.

In the month of May, the President declared in an official statement, nearly 4,000 planes were produced in this country, besides more than 1,500 tanks, more than 50,000 machine guns, about the same number of sub-machine guns, nearly 2,000 heavy artillery and anti-tank guns, in addition to large quantities of anti-aircraft guns.

Hitler's Doom Coming

If our annual production were to continue at the May rate, this would mean that we will turn out 50,000 planes and 18,000 tanks in a year. These totals are staggering. But they do not even approximate the actual production the nation is going to get, for surely the May figures will be dwarfed in the coming months when production begins to hit full stride.

Now if Hitler can get any aid or comfort from these figures, he is even more insane than we suspect. For they add up only to his doom. He must see that when these implements of war are thrown into the field of battle against him in such overwhelming quantities, his goose is cooked. Therefore, he must realize that his only chance to win the war is to do it right now. And that's too much of a job even for the blitzkrieg.

We are willing to give industry due credit for its share in building up war production to the present high levels, even though many firms took up the duty of war reconversion belatedly and reluctantly. We also gladly take off our hats to the Government for its energetic stimulation of the production drive.

But, in all fairness, we believe that the men and women of labor, the nation's production soldiers, deserve the lion's share of the credit. Because they are actually doing the job—and a swell job it is! They are the ones who are straining their muscles, devoting their skill and contributing their sweat to speed victory. And the trade union leaders of America, have exhibited the patriotic determination and the far-sighted vision that has brought America these heartening results.

Free Labor Did The Trick

You may remember that even before America entered this war, while we were just beginning to strengthen our defenses against future contingencies and at the same time send aid to Britain, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor told the nation that labor would accomplish "production miracles." That was last October.

You may also remember that when the Japs actually attacked at Pearl Harbor, a great hue and cry was raised by reactionary forces against labor. Those whose sole concern was to profit by the war managed to convince many of our honest and sincere citizens that the only way to get results in war production was by compulsion. And the campaign was started for anti-strike legislation, for abolition of the 40-hour week standard and overtime rules and for the complete destruction of free trade unions.

In that hour of crisis, President Green and other trade union leaders took up the challenge and pledged labor's all-out aid to the war program. They warned that any attempt to enslave labor would defeat its own purpose. They prophesied that labor would accomplish more by voluntary methods than ever could be forced out of unwilling workers by compulsion.

President Roosevelt and the nation heeded the warnings of labor's leaders and Congress was prevailed upon to defeat the many disastrous legislative proposals aimed at America's workers.

Now it seems pertinent for us to point out that the results have proved the wisdom of this course.

Production has broken all records. Donald Nelson says Allied production exceeds that of the Axis now and will go to even greater heights in the coming months. It will swing the tide of battle. It will win the war!

And free labor did the trick!

U. S. Army Salutes AFL Workers On "Labor For Victory" Program

Cleveland—The United States Army gave a magnificent salute to the six million members of the American Federation of Labor on the "Labor For Victory" program broadcast from here on a nation-wide NBC network, June 27.

The broadcast originated on the assembly floor of the huge Warner & Swasey machine tool plant here, with union and management representatives joining together in stirring pledges to increase war production.

Speaking for the United States Army, Col. Robert A. Gilgeburgh said:

"This meeting in the Warner and Swasey plant is important to every American. It is vital to the men in the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps everywhere. It is a significant milestone in labor-management relations.

"Representatives of labor and management have sat down, put their heads together and have pledged themselves to speed the production of increased production of the munitions of war.

"Management and labor in this Warner and Swasey plant are thinking and acting along the same lines. They are not concerned with selfish interests. They are not thinking of profits. They are not thinking of wages, they are thinking of production for America.

"From time to time management and labor may have their differences as to methods and policies, but they are united in working to win the war. They are both driving forward for results. And that's what counts.

"Let's look at the results at Warner and Swasey. The Navy Department, I am proud to say, as an Army man, has awarded the Navy 'E' for efficiency to the management and the men who build these vitally needed turret lathes.

"Good work! I congratulate the officers of this company and its many workers for their fine record.

"We, the soldiers on the firing line, and you, the soldiers on the production line must keep on working and singing.

"Your organization has an important part to play in the war effort," Lt. D." wired. "You are helping to make the essential machine tools, raising resources, clearing commodities and assisting in protection of civilians in India and the Philippines from the enemies."

The convention pledged all-out support of the war effort and cabled General MacArthur an assurance the women would do all in their power for final victory "in our war for world freedom."

AFL Women Organize To Win War

St. Louis, Mo.—Over 2,500,000 mothers and wives of union men have banded together in an international organization—the American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor.

First formed on a provisional basis in 1938, the Federation was set up as a permanent body at a convention here this week and immediately pledged its efforts to help win the war.

High praise for the work of the women was voiced by President Roosevelt in a special message to the convention.

fighting as a team to smash the Nazis and the Japs. There can be no let-up for a single moment.

"And you have done an outstanding job. But you workers here tonight and every worker in every factory and mine in this country cannot afford for one second to be satisfied with any record of achievement no matter how fine it may be. There is still much to be done.

"An army can't fight without weapons. Without machine tools a war plant can't produce weapons. That puts the responsibility on you. It puts you fellows right in the front lines of the fight."

The thousands of employes at the Warner & Swasey plant are represented by Lodge No. 1000 of the International Association of Machinists. David Smith, chief union shop steward of the plant and a member of the labor-management committee, said:

"Our equipment is so much more efficient than the methods and so streamlined that my can outproduce any three country in Europe."

Peter Geoghegan, recording secretary of the local union, added:

"The plant committee is doing a wonderful job. We are working together to get those Warner & Swasey products out faster than ever before to make headaches for Hitler."

Charles Black, representing the management, said:

"We're all pooling our ideas to speed production and we're bound to get results."

And Ray Blyth, another management member of the plant committee, added:

"I think the results of our cooperation here will show the boys in our fighting forces that we're really backing them up."

Also interviewed on the program were workers who fought heroically in the last war and who are now fighting for America in this one. Lieut. Andre Rauch acted as master of ceremonies and the workers' glee club at the plant sang patriotic songs.

Green Leads Labor's July 4 Fetes With Two Nation-Wide Broadcasts

Detroit—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor will lead organized labor's nation-wide celebration of Independence Day by delivering two radio addresses from this city on July 4.

The first talk will be given at a ceremony arranged by the United States Army, which is tendering a luncheon at the Hotel Statler to more than 1,500 labor leaders. Other speakers on the same program will be Gen. Brehon Somervell and CIO President Philip Murray. These addresses will be broadcast over the Mutual System from coast to coast from 12:30 to 1 P. M., Eastern War Time.

In the evening Mr. Green will participate in a nation-wide broadcast under the auspices of the American Legion. This program will be aired over the Blue Network from 8 to 9 P. M., Eastern War Time. The history of the American Federation of Labor will be dramatized as part of this program and then Mr. Green will deliver a brief message.

Meany Broadcasts Message of Hope To People of Conquered Nations

Washington, D. C.—To the men and women of all the nations which are today ground down under the cruel heel of the Nazis, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany of the American Federation of Labor broadcast by short-wave radio a message of hope and encouragement. He said:

"The message of American labor to our brothers and sisters in Europe is this—The hour of deliverance is the day when the Nazi yoke will be lifted from your backs, the day when you can again live in peace, in freedom and in prosperity, is coming. Take heart! Hold on! Tens of thousands of tanks and tens of thousands of planes are on their way to Continental Europe and America will see to it again, as in 1918, that the Germans will be beaten. And this time we will finish the job!

"That pledge is one that deliverance is coming is backed up by the greatest miracle of production in the history of the world.

"Only a few days ago Captain Oliver Lyttelton, the British production director, visited one of our Midwestern cities where production is going full blast, and upon returning to Washington he said:

"'If Hitler could only have seen what I have seen, I am sure that he would throw in his hand and cut his throat.'

"Mind you, this was upon seeing the insides of only one of our great war production centers. What Captain Lyttelton saw going on in that Midwestern city goes on every day and every night, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 168 hours per week, in hundreds of production centers throughout the length and breadth of America. So, when we American workers promise you, our friends, that deliverance is coming, you can have faith not only that we are coming, but that we are coming with the armament against which no dictator can long stand.

"The millions of men and women who make up the American labor movement are supporting the war effort with all their might and all their strength. We are standing behind our commander-in-chief, President Roosevelt. Millions of workers are already in our Army. The rest of us are on the job, our sleeves rolled up, working as hard as it is humanly possible to work. American labor has voluntarily relinquished the right to strike for the duration of the war. Whatever sacrifices are found necessary to help the war effort we workers have accepted cheerfully.

"All this we are doing because we know that, no matter what the cost, no matter how high the price in blood and treasure, Hitlerism must be destroyed. Hitlerism is a plague, and we can deal with it in only one way. We must wipe it out. American labor is determined that it shall be wiped out and is prepared to do anything our government calls upon us to do to that end.

"The wage-earners of America understand clearly that nothing can be of importance today except the attainment of victory—complete, uncompromising victory over the Nazis. We understand clearly that in the whole history of Nazism in every country Hitler has conquered in his history of labor oppression. By his acts of pillage, torture and murder against the decent, honest workingmen of Europe, Adolf Hitler has made this war labor's war. He has made this war American labor's main job. As General Marshall, the American Chief of Staff, said the other day, the American armies will again be in Europe. Be ready when that happy moment comes.

"Workers of Europe, you are not alone in the world. You have friends, millions of friends, on this side of the Atlantic—friends whose sole aim in life today is to destroy the monsters who look like men but who have the hearts and minds of the beasts of the jungle.

"With the utmost rapidity, American industry, the American government and the huge army of American labor are today forging the weapons by which peace and prosperity will again come to the millions of European workers."

Bard Praises Labor's War Record; Urges Wider Teamwork With Navy

Washington, D. C.—The United States Navy has been lucky and inspired by the good work and cooperation of the American Federation of Labor, realize the deep significance Secretary of the Navy Ralph Bard declares in a timely article in the July issue of the American Federationist.

In a notable tribute to the achievements of America's production soldiers, Bard called attention to the value of construction and production records attained by members of the American Federation of Labor members.

Stating the time schedules," he said, "is labor's way of proving to the world that in this struggle the worker against the worker.

"American labor is rightly aroused for the defense and protection of world freedom. Heroic memories of their fellow-workers under fire at Pearl Harbor, Wake, Guam and Midway, move the men of labor today to vindicate their comrades' great and gallant efforts to construct the ramparts of liberty in the embattled Pacific areas.

"Labor in these instances stood, as it now stands, shoulder-to-shoulder with the armed services. The united and organized labor realize that the American intention is to win this war together. We shall not come to victory separately.

"You, of the American Federation of Labor, realize the deep significance and the timely importance of President Green's words! Today we must remember that we are Americans first, and members of trade unions, second. You have grasped the unmistakable lesson of history—how workers and trade unions under the Nazi, Fascist and Japanese governments are hit the hardest.

"Therefore, history appeals to the American worker. The full realization of our common fate in a Hitler world must unite employer and employee in the common effort to win the war. This spirit must be met by the Navy with all earnestness. We cannot fail to give fighting tasks to safeguard freedom for the human race, unless labor helps us by its genius, its cooperative skill and its products.

"American labor and the American Navy are comrades in this tremendous modern crusade and by their united strength, exerted without stint, will burn the Fascist scourge of oppression and tyranny from the earth."

AFL Wins Two Tax Victories

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor scored two notable victories in the final drafting of the tax bill by the House Ways and Means Committee.

First, it succeeded in knocking out a proposal to compel labor unions to pay income taxes on their treasuries. This was a variation of the bitter fight which reactionaries for months have been waging against the union treasuries.

The second triumph was the "definite, final and irretrievable" shelving of a sales tax. The committee tossed this iniquitous levy into the waste basket after nearly five months of hearings. Instead, Congress and Business to shift the bulk of the war bill from the wealthy to the backs of people of modest means.

The movement to tax the income of unions was inspired solely by hatred of labor and not by a desire to provide revenue for the government. This fact was underscored in the House by Chairman Hamilton's dictum that "the power to tax is the power to destroy."

Ever since the first income tax law was adopted, religious, fraternal and charitable organizations have been exempted from the payment of taxes on their revenues derived from income taxation. To deny unions the benefit of this exemption, as was proposed, would have been flagrantly discriminatory.

News Briefs

COMMANDER SINGER URGES LABOR-NAVY TEAMWORK

Andover, Mass.—Lieut. Commander S. J. Singer told an AFL union forum here that the United States Navy is anxious to collaborate with organized labor to speed production of arms for victory.

Speaking at the invitation of Kenneth Taylor, secretary of the Massachusetts Federation of Labor, Commander Singer disclosed that the new Incentive Section of the Navy will be devoted to promoting teamwork between labor and the Navy. Commander Singer serves as aide to Admiral Woodward, who heads the Incentives Section.

ACCIDENT RATE REDUCED BY NAVY YARD WORKERS

Despite the huge increase in work at navy yards during the past year, the accident rate for 1941 showed a 7.7 per cent drop over the year before, according to a Navy Department announcement.

Man hours worked in naval shore establishments was nearly double that in 1940, increasing from 228,739,143 to 452,390,783. Despite this influx of labor, a great battle the Navy's accident frequency rate was 19.2 per million compared with a rate of 15.4 for the Nation's largest industries as set by the National Safety Council's index.

The rate of severity of bad accidents was reduced 38.5 per cent from 1940 to 1941, the rate being 6.81 as compared with the industry's rate of 1.53.

FIREFIGHTERS' UNION COWS HOSTILE MAYOR

St. Joseph, Mo.—Faced by a recall movement launched by an organized labor here, Mayor Phil J. Welch and city councilmen gave a strong attempt to crush the A. F. of L. Firefighters' Union.

The mayor and council members agreed to recognize the union, reinstate six discharged firemen and increase the monthly salary rules in the fire department. In turn, labor dropped the recall fight.

PAY BOOST FOR 5,500 WON BY STREET RAILWAY UNION

Washington, D. C.—An award issued by a panel of the National War Labor Board granted an increase of 10 cents an hour to 5,500 employes of the Public Service Coordinated Transport and of the Public Service Interstate Transportation Company, members of the State Conference Board of New Jersey of the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes of America.

The companies form an integrated system of mass transportation operating in more than 370 communities in New Jersey with a total of about 5,000 population. The award provides for an increase from 75 to 85 cents an hour for men now receiving less than that figure. The minimum weekly guarantee of all extra operators has been raised from $29 to $30. The increase of 10 cents applies also to the maintenance employes of the companies.

MEMORIAL FOR LABOR'S WAR EFFORTS IS URGED

Pittsburgh, Pa.—A proposal for erection of a permanent memorial in Pittsburgh symbolizing the part played in the present war effort by the nation's work forces is sponsored by Post 707 of the American Legion.

On Memorial Day, Post 707 conducted ceremonies in Point Park, support of which it enlisted the sponsorship of building tradesmen killed or captured in the Philippine Islands, Hawaiian Islands of Wake and Guam and for Charles Pollock, the first Pittsburgh AFL member to make the supreme sacrifice in the present conflict. Pollock, a member of Warehousemen's Local 967, lost his life in the sinking of the Reuben James.

Past Commander J. Francis Smith said the memorial would be patterned after that in Pittsburgh, the labor capital of the world, a suitable memorial to be built to perpetuate in a measure the unselfishness and patriotic fervor which labor as an entity is displaying and always has displayed in this nation's armed struggles.

Smith is one of the organizers of Post 707 which at the time it was chartered was unique in that its membership was restricted to AFL members.

SUN LIFE INSURANCE CO. SIGNS NEW AFL CONTRACT

Washington, D. C.—The Sun Life Insurance Company of America has signed a new agreement with the Industrial and Ordinary Insurance Agents Union No. 21354 of the Federation, D. C., George L. Ross, AFL organizer, announced.

In addition to improved salary and work conditions, the agreement stipulates that all present employes must join the union and those subsequently hired must join after they have been licensed to sell and collect insurance.

Independence Day Message

By WILLIAM GREEN

President, American Federation of Labor

American labor celebrates this July 4 not with parades and fireworks but with another day's hard work to preserve the independence which our forefathers won for us 146 years ago.

Let the parades this year be the onward march of our armed forces against the enemy.

Let the fireworks be the bursting of bombs dropped by our Flying Fortresses on Axis strongholds on the battlefronts.

Here at home the workers of America will steadfastly stick to their job of producing the implements of war in such tremendous volume that victory over the enemies of human freedom will be assured.

On July 4 the American people commemorate their political independence won by a bitter struggle and maintained through the years by constant vigilance.

This year we Americans face the most critical test in our history for our political independence hangs in the balance of a world-wide war.

Many smaller nations already have fallen victim to ruthless aggression. We have seen what happened to their people. Millions of workers have been conscripted into labor battalions and forced to toil like slaves for their conquerors to make arms for further bloodshed. Thousands of innocent hostages have been murdered in a deliberate campaign of terror. Whole populations have been robbed and starved by conscienceless plunderers.

America is now menaced by the same fate. The bloodthirsty and power-hungry dictators of Europe and Asia covet our land, our resources, and our strength. They are all-out to destroy everything America stands for because they know that so long as freedom-loving peoples here they are not safe.

By the same token, we Americans now realize that so long as oppression and slavery exist anywhere in the world our own freedoms are not secure. Therefore, we are fighting this war not only to protect our own rights and privileges but to share them with every member of the human race.

We have now been in this war only seven short months. The enemy struck at us when we were not prepared. Almost overnight we have been forced to turn our plowshares into swords, to convert our huge peace-time industries into arsenals for war, to train our fun-loving young men into grim soldiers, to forget our private interests and ambitions and concentrate on the one and only job that is now the assignment of every American—to help win this war for survival.

I am proud to say on this July 4 that American labor has done and is doing its part gloriously.

The response of American workers to their country's emergency was instantaneous. Their first thought was not what they could get out of this war for themselves but what they could give to speed victory.

Voluntarily, American labor relinquished the exercise of its right to strike. Voluntarily, the workers of our nation offered to put in longer hours. Voluntarily and enthusiastically, they threw themselves into the race for war production, with the result that American output of planes, guns, tanks, and ships now far outstrips that of our enemies.

No one has to crack the whip over American labor. Our workers and their union leaders are Americans first and trade unionists second. There is nothing that they can do, no sacrifice they can make, that they will not gladly offer of their own free will.

On this Independence Day, the American labor movement dedicates itself to proving that our free workers will outproduce the slave labor of the Axis powers and that this margin of our superiority will be a vital factor in winning the war.

Employers' United Front Split As WLB Votes Union Security Clause

Washington, D. C.—For the first time since it was established, the National War Labor Board has handed down decisions which provide for the inclusion of a union security clause in union contracts.

This unprecedented ruling came in the case of the Phelps-Dodge Corporation, a copper mining concern, and affected its Arizona operations.

The order applies to 5,400 workers represented by the metal trade unions of the American Federation of Labor and 700 CIO unionists. The Board's order, it is believed, requires them to remain members of their respective unions in good standing for the duration of the contract.

Hitherto, employer members of the WLB had held out against union security. Recently, however, their united front was split.

This break in the bosses' bloc was a crushing defeat for the National Association of Manufacturers, which had conducted a lavishly-financed propaganda drive against any form of union protection for workers.

The N. A. M. had hoped to keep unions weak during the war, so they could more readily be smashed after the war ends. However, the latest action of the employer members on the board knocks the props out from under the association's campaign.

The split in the ranks of the employers, who had heretofore voted solidly against union security, occurred in three cases—involving Ranger Aircraft Engines, Farmingdale, L. I.; Great Lakes Carbon Corporation, San Diego, and E.-Z. Mills, Bennington, Vt.

In each case, two of the board's four employer representatives—Roger D. Lapham, chairman of the American Hawaiian Steamship Company, and R. H. Deupree, president of Proctor & Gamble—approved orders directing the firms to sign maintenance-of-membership agreements.

Under these agreements, all employes in the plants who are members of the union 15 days after issuance of the order, or who join thereafter, must remain in good standing during the life of the contracts to hold their jobs.

"Job Freezing" Rejected By McNutt; Key War Workers To Be Deferred

Washington, D. C.—Kicking compulsion out the window, the War Manpower Commission, headed by Paul V. McNutt, set up official machinery to mobilize workers for war jobs by voluntary methods.

The Commission issued eight directives to other Government agencies prohibiting a system of priorities under which war industries will be frozen to the assignment of available workers.

Previous rumors of "job freezing" and "work or fight" policies proved to be unfounded as the directives contained no such orders.

Moreover, the McNutt agency directed the Selective Service System and the United States Employment Service to establish steps to see that essential workers engaged in war jobs will be deferred from military service.

The new labor priorities system will not benefit sweatshop employers. Under the directives issued by McNutt, if their wage scales are below prevailing rates for their industry they won't be given first call on workers until they bring their wage levels up to standard.

At the same time the Employment Service was instructed to complete as soon as possible a classification of the millions of workers who registered their occupations in questionnaires sent out by the Selective Service system recently.

Skilled workers on this list who are not in war jobs or other essential positions will be urged by Employment Service representatives to get into the war work, but for the present at least they will not be subject to any compulsory, McNutt stressed.

These steps were taken at the suggestion of labor chiefs who are serving on the Manpower Commission's labor-management policy committee.

The labor members agree completely with the Manpower Commission's directives to other agencies, coupled with safeguards for the rights of workers, was entirely reasonable and would work better than compulsory methods in meeting the nation's manpower needs.